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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 RSC-01 DRC-01 SSO-00 /009 W
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P 130515Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7338

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FOR NEA/INS DENNIS KUX FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A: DECLASSIFY UPON RECEIPT
TAGS: EAID, IN
SUBJ: RUPEE NEGOTIATIONS-MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR TO JOHN W. MCCORMACK

PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO:
HONORABLE JOHN W. MCCORMACK
JOHN W. MCCORMACK POST OFFICE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

QUOTE DEAR MR. SPEAKER. FATHER ROBERT BARRETT HAS JUST BEEN TO SEE ME HERE IN NEW DELHI TO TALK ABOUT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TRAINING AND RESEARCH PROGRAM IN POPULATION SYNAMICS, HUMAN ECOLOGY AND FAMILY GUIDANCE AT THE ST. JOHN'S MEDICAL COLLEGA AND HOSPITAL IN BANGALORE, INDIA. THIS WOULD BE OPERATED IN CONNECTION WITH THE JOHN W. MCCORMACK INDO-AMERICAN PEACE HOSPITAL NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION THERE. I HAVE MYSELF JUST RETURNED FROM THE UNITED STATES WHERE I HAD A LONG TALK WITH CONGRESSMAN CLEMENT ZABLOCKI CONCERNING THIS PROGRAM AND THE AVAILABILITY OF UNITED STATES OWNED RUPEES TO FINANCE IT. I ASSURED HIM THAT I AM PERSONALLY ENORMOUSLY INTERESTED IN SEEING THIS GO FORWARD, AND THAT I WAS ABSOLUTELY CONFIDENT THAT THIS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE THE VIEW OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. AS YOU KNOW, THE PROGRAM WAS APPROVED BY US SEVERAL YEARS AGO, BUT THE GOVERN-MENT OF INDIA REFUSED TO RELEASE THE RUPEES TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE. THIS IS A NOT UNCOMMON SITUATION. OUR HOLDINGS OF RUPEES ARE
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SO VAST AND RISE SO STEADILY THAT THE GOVERNMENT HERE HAS BEEN

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FEARFUL OF ALLOWING THEM TO BE USED FOR ANY PURPOSE, HOWSO-
EVEN WORTHY. WITH THIS REALITY IN MIND FIRST PRESIDENT JOHNSON
AND NOW PRESIDENT NIXON HAVE SOUGHT AN AGREEMENT WITH THE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA WHEREBY A LARGE PORTION OF OUR HOLDINGS
ARE TURNED OVER TO INDIA FOR AID PURPOSES, WITH THE U.S.
GOVERNMENT RETAINING A FIXED AMOUNT WHICH WOULD BE DRAWN DOWN
IN A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME, SO THAT ONCE THE AGREEMENT
COMES INTO EFFECT THE DEBT IS FOR PRACTICAL PRUPOSES DISPOSED
OF. WE HAVE NOW AT LAST REACHED SUCH AN AGREEMENT. UNDER ITS
TERMS THE UNITED STATES WILL RETAIN ONE BILLION DOLLARS IN RUPEES
FOR OUR PURPOSES. THIS IS AN AMOUNT SUFFICIENT TO COVER OUR
OPERATING EXPENSES HERE FOR FIFTEEN OR TWENTY YEARS, AND IN
ADDITION PROVIDE PLENTY OF FUNDS FOR PROJECTS SUCH AS THE TRAINING
PROGRAM AT THE MCCORMACK HOSPITAL. IT IS MY FIRM CONVICTION THAT
IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA WILL PERMIT
RUPEES TO BE USED FOR THIS PROJECT, AND I PROPOSE TO MAKE IT
MY BUSINESS THAT IT SHOULD.

THE PROBLEM IS THAT OUR AGREEMENT IS THREATENED BY ONE OF
THOSE SUDDEN SQUALLS THAT COME UP IN THE CONGRESS FROM TIME
TO TIME. SENATOR BYRD OF VIRGINIA SUCCEEDED IN HAVING THE SENATE
ADOPT AN AMENDMENT TO THE DEFENSE PROCUREMENT BILL AND THE
AID BILL WHICH WOULD REQUIRE ANY SUCH AGREEMENT TO BE AUTHORIZED
BY ACT OF CONGRESS, RATHER THAN THE PRESENT STATUTORY PROVISION
WHICH MERELY PROVIDES FOR AN AGREEMENT TO LAY BEFORE THE
AGRICULTULTURAL COMMITTEES FOR THIRTY DAYS. SENATOR MANSFIELD
GENEROULSY UNDERTOOK TO TRY TO GET THE AMENDMENT DELETED IN
CONFERENCE FROM THE DEFENSE BILL AND THIS HAVE BEEN DONE.
I FEAR HOWEVER THAT WE MAY HAVE A HARDER TIME WITH THE AID
BILL BECAUSE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE AMENDMENT IS GERMANE.
I BELIEVE THE SENATE CONFEREES THEMSELVES MOSTLY VOTED AGAINST
THE AMENDMENT, BUT THEY WILL NEED SUPPORT FROM THE HOUSE CONFEREES
TO DO THIS. (LISTEN TO ME EXPLAINING CONGRESSIONAL PROCEDURE
TO THE FORMER SPEAKER*) IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WOULD BE
IMMENSELY HELPFUL IF YOU COULD CALL CONGRESSMEN ZABLOCKI,
WHO WILL BE A CONFEREE, AND POSSIBLE ALSO CONGRESSMAN 'NEILL
TO TELL THEM OF YOUR INTEREST. MR. BRUCE LAINGEN AT THE INDIA
DESK OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE CAN GIVE YOU ALL THE DETAILS
THAT YOU MIGHT LIKE. MANY PERSONS ARE HELPING US, INCLUDING
SENATOR COOPER, AMBASSADOR KEATING, AND AMBASSADOR BUNKER,
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BUT YOUR HELP WILL OBVIOUSLY CARRY THE MOST WEIGHT IN THE HOUSE.

I SHALL BE DEEPLY GRATEFUL IF YOU CAN HELP US. I REPEAT THIS
IS A MATTER THAT TWO PRESIDENTS AND OUR AMBASSADORS HAVE TRIED
TO RESOLVE IN THE INTERESTS OF INDO-AMERICAN RELATIONS, AND
WITH THE OBJECT OF GETTING ON WITH IMPORTANT AND DESPERATELY
NEEDED PROGRAMS SUCH AS THE ONE PLANNED FOR ST. JOHNS.

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IN CLOSING, MAY I THANK YOU FOR THE GREAT COURTESY YOU SHOWED LOU MILLER A HARVARD STUDENT I WAS ADVISING LAST YEAR. HE HAS NOT ONLY, THANKS TO YOU PRODUCED A MARVELOUS PAPER, BUT HAS RECORDED SOME SPLENDID INTERVIEWS WITH YOU AS WELL.

HAS IT EVER OCCURRED TO YOU TO COME TO INDIA FOR THE OPENING OF THE MCCORMACK HOSPITAL? AS A NEW YORK DEMOCRAT I CAN PROMISE YOU AN ABSOLUTELY NONPARTISAN ELEPHANT WILL MEET YOU AT THE PLANE.

RESPECTFULLY,
DANIEL P. MOYNIHAN AMBASSADOR

END QUOTE
MOYNIHAN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED.

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